



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

August 23, 2004

Letters to the Editor,
The Northwest Current
P.O. Box 40400
Washington, D.C. 20016-0400

To the Editor:

Your recent articles on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Spring Valley program illustrated a lack of understanding regarding how reports are prepared and finalized. Accuracy is the goal, and we use a process designed to make reports as precise as possible. I write to clarify that process for you and your readers.

Reports are first marked "draft" and examined in detail within the Corps. Once this internal review is complete, reports are marked "draft final." Draft final documents undergo peer review by our regulatory partners, EPA and the D.C. Department of Health. Property owners are consulted at this time. Recently, we also provided a draft final document on the Small Disposal Area to the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board's Science Task Group for review. We did this to meet a Science Task Group request and address a community concern, benefiting all parties involved.

Through the draft and draft final stages of the process, reviewers provide comments. The report writers then consider and address the comments, making changes and providing explanations and clarifications. The final reports include the revisions developed through this multi-layered review-and-comment process. The final reports are then released to the public.

For more information on the Spring Valley program, your readers are invited to visit our web site, <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/WashingtonDC/springvalley.htm>.

Sincerely,

Gary Schilling
Spring Valley Program Manager

cf: current@erols.com